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UNITED NATIONS FUND FOR NAMIBIA: SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAMME FOR NAMIBIAN STUDENTS

Final report on the United Nations Fund for Namibia: report of the Trust Committee for the United Nations Fund for Namibia

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I. INTRODUCTION

1. The United Nations Fund for Namibia was established by General Assembly resolution 2679 (XXV) of 9 December 1970 in order to provide comprehensive material assistance to the Namibian people during their struggle for independence.

2. The United Nations Council for Namibia was appointed as trustee of the Fund for Namibia, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 3112 (XXVIII) of 12 December 1973.

3. Following Namibia's independence in March 1990, the General Assembly decided in its resolution 44/243 of 11 September 1990 that the United Nations Council for Namibia, having fulfilled the important mandate entrusted to it by the Assembly in its resolution 2248 (S-V) of 19 May 1967 relating to the Territory, was dissolved.

4. According to the terms of that resolution, the General Assembly decided that the Fund for Namibia should continue to operate in order to ensure the orderly completion of all programmes and activities then financed from it. The Trust Committee for the Fund for Namibia was subsequently established to serve as trustee of the Fund until its dissolution. The composition and guidelines of the Trust Committee were patterned on those of the Committee on the Fund for Namibia.

5. The Trust Committee for the United Nations Fund for Namibia is composed of representatives of Australia, Finland, India, Nigeria, Romania, Senegal, Turkey, Venezuela, Yugoslavia and Zambia. The Chairman of the Committee is the Permanent Representative of Zambia to the United Nations. The Vice-Chairman, the representative of Venezuela, also acts as Rapporteur.

6. In its resolution 44/243 B, the General Assembly decided that the United Nations Fund for Namibia should continue to operate in order to ensure the orderly completion of all programmes and activities it currently funds and that a final report in that regard should be submitted to the General Assembly at an appropriate time.

II. ACTIVITIES OF THE UNITED NATIONS FUND FOR NAMIBIA DURING THE PERIOD 1991-1994

7. Activities under the United Nations Fund for Namibia during the period from 1991 through 1994 have been financed through two separate accounts, namely, the General Account and the Nationhood Programme Account. The two accounts provide financial support for the education and training of Namibians who were awarded scholarships by the Fund prior to the independence of Namibia in March 1990. The support provided is for individual scholarships and group training projects. The Fund also takes up the costs for the repatriation of fellows upon graduation. Activities of the Fund are undertaken in consultation with the Government of Namibia.

A. The General Account

8. The General Account has been used to fund the extension of scholarship awards, social and medical assistance to sponsored students and the repatriation of scholarship holders upon graduation.

9. In January 1991, there were 80 Namibian students holding scholarship awards under the General Account (see A/C.5/46/10, para. 7). In January 1994, only one individual scholarship holder remained. At its tenth meeting, on 28 February 1994, the Trust Committee for the United Nations Fund for Namibia approved the 1994 allocation of $18,500 for his scholarship programme and $1,000 for emergency medical assistance. In addition, $39,000 is needed in order to enable the student to complete his studies in December 1996 and $3,500 for his repatriation, which makes an estimated total of $52,000 for 1994-1996. It is recommended that the amount of $52,000 be approved to enable the student to complete his studies. It is further recommended that the approved funds be transferred to the Trust Fund for the United Nations Educational and Training Programme for Southern Africa, which is already now handling the day-to-day administrative affairs of the student.

B. The Nationhood Programme Account

10. In 1991 there were 14 ongoing projects under the Nationhood Programme Account. In January 1994, three projects that needed additional funding remained active. At its tenth meeting, on 28 February 1994, the Trust Committee for the United Nations Fund for Namibia approved the 1994 allocation of $50,000 for three scholarships in the field of mineral development under project NAM/79/001. The students thus sponsored are scheduled to complete their studies in December 1994. At the same meeting, the Trust Committee approved the 1994 allocation of $10,000 for project NAM/91/003, Support for Nationhood Programme Assistance Activity. It also approved in principle a special provision to cover additional costs for the third project, NAM/86/005, Vocational Training Centre for Namibians. The amount required is $170,000, to refund the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) indicative planning figure for Namibia, which was advanced by UNDP to cover the deficit of project NAM/86/005, executed by the International Labour Organization (ILO). It is recommended that, with the transfer of that amount, the Nationhood Programme account be closed.

C. The United Nations Institute for Namibia Account

11. The activities of the United Nations Institute for Namibia were discontinued in 1990, but the account was not closed. It is recommended that it be closed along with the other two accounts of the Fund for Namibia.

III. FINANCIAL POSITION OF THE UNITED NATIONS FUND FOR NAMIBIA AS AT 31 OCTOBER 1994

12. The total balance available in the United Nations Fund for Namibia as at 31 October 1994 was $4,829,420, consisting of $3,891,271 in the Nationhood Programme Account, $871,220 in the General Account and $66,929 in the United Nations Institute for Namibia Account.

IV. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

13. It is recommended, in accordance with paragraphs 9 and 10 above, that the following amounts be approved for expenditure: $52,000 for one student to complete his studies, and $170,000 to the UNDP indicative planning figure for Namibia to cover the completed activities under the project.

14. It is recommended that the $52,000 be transferred to the United Nations Educational and Training Programme for Southern Africa within the Department for Development Support and Management Services for administration until the student at Gallaudet University completes his studies in 1996.

15. It is recommended that the United Nations Fund for Namibia (Nationhood Programme, General and United Nations Institute for Namibia Accounts) be closed when the United Nations closes the 1994 accounts and that the available balance of funds be transferred to the Government of Namibia to be used for education that is in keeping with the original purpose of the use of the funds under the United Nations Fund for Namibia.

16. It is recommended that the Trust Committee be dissolved.

17. The Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following resolution:

United Nations Fund for Namibia

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 2248 (S-V) of 19 May 1967, by which it established the United Nations Council for South West Africa as the legal Administering Authority for the Territory until independence, 1/

Recalling also its resolution 2679 (XXV) of 9 December 1970, by which it established the United Nations Fund for Namibia and its resolution 3112 (XXVIII) of 12 December 1973, by which it appointed the United Nations Council for Namibia trustee of the United Nations Fund for Namibia,

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1/ By its resolution 2372 (XXII) of 12 June 1968, the General Assembly proclaimed that South West Africa should thenceforth be known as "Namibia" and decided that the United Nations Council for South West Africa should be called "United Nations Council for Namibia".

Recalling also its resolution S-18/1 of 23 April 1990, by which it admitted the Republic of Namibia to membership in the United Nations,

Recalling further its resolution 44/243 A of 11 September 1990, in which it decided that the United Nations Council for Namibia, having fulfilled the important mandate entrusted to it by the General Assembly in its resolution 2248 (S-V) relating to the Territory, was to be dissolved, and in which it requested the Secretary-General immediately to arrange, in consultation with the Government of Namibia, to coordinate the transfer to the Government of Namibia of the programmes, activities and assets of the United Nations Council for Namibia, including archival collections, consisting of, inter alia, major resolutions and decisions of the United Nations on the question of Namibia and other relevant documents and official correspondence, as well as in particular, those relating to the implementation of Decree No. 1 for the Protection of the Natural Resources of Namibia 2/ and to the accession to international conventions and representation of Namibia in specialized agencies of the United Nations and intergovernmental organizations,

Recalling also its resolution 44/243 B, of 11 September 1990, in which it decided that the United Nations Fund for Namibia should continue to operate in order to ensure the orderly completion of all programmes and activities currently financed from it and as set forth in annex II of the resolution and that a report in that respect should be made to the General Assembly at an appropriate time, and also decided that the United Nations Institute for Namibia, having fulfilled its mandate to provide substantive support in its areas of competence in the struggle for freedom of the Namibians and the establishment of an independent Namibia and in view of the critical financial difficulties it was experiencing, should cease its operations on 30 September 1990,

1. Takes note of the report of the Trust Committee for the United Nations Fund for Namibia; 3/

2. Decides that the one student remaining under the United Nations Fund for Namibia shall be transferred for administration purposes with the necessary funds until completion of his programme in 1996 to the United Nations Educational and Training Programme for Southern Africa, administered by the Department for Development Support and Management Services;

3. Decides also that, since the activities of the United Nations Fund for Namibia financed under the three accounts, Nationhood Programme Account, General Account and United Nations Institute for Namibia Account, have been completed, the three accounts of the Fund shall be closed and the assets transferred to the Government of Namibia to be utilized for the purpose for which they were given, namely, the education of Namibians;

2/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Thirty-fifth Session, Supplement No. 24 (A/35/24), vol. I, annex II.

3/ See A/49/782.

4. Decides further that the Trust Committee for the United Nations Fund for Namibia, having completed its mandate, is hereby dissolved.